

## **CDS to Participate in High-Level UN Event on African Free Trade During 73rd General Assembly**

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**NEW YORK, September 4, 2018** — The Center for Development and Strategy (CDS) is pleased to announce its upcoming participation in a high-level meeting organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and its co-organizers, the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The event will take place on 26 September 2018 in the margins of the 73rd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York, NY.

Entitled, “Enhancing global partnerships for IDDA III — Key for successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),” CDS is looking forward to engaging in active dialogue on how the IDDA III initiative can support the implementation of the recently launched AfCFTA. CDS will join other high-level representatives from governments, United Nations entities, international organizations, research institutions, and selected private sector organizations to engage in such discussion. CDS firmly believes the expansion of trade and sustainable development can be achieved through enhanced industrial competitiveness and global partnerships. CDS is therefore excited about opportunities presented by the IDDA III to support economic development across the African continent.

CDS is devoted to providing rigorous research and analysis on issues at the intersection of economic development, sustainability, and security. The establishment of the AfCFTA comes at an opportune moment given the challenges communities across the African continent are currently facing from climate change and resource insecurity. A robust free trade agreement should therefore take these issues, as well as future climate forecasts, strongly into consideration. CDS’s presence at this meeting is especially important because of our commitment to provide thought and actionable leadership in managing increased risks from climate change, while ensuring economic development is done in a sustainable manner for all.

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*The Center for Development and Strategy (CDS) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank that focuses on the intersection of development, sustainability, and security.*